

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
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FM USLO PEKING
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INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1417

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CH AL

SUBJ: SINO-ALBANIAN RELATIONS

1. SUMMARY: ALBANIANS HAVE FOLLOWED UP THEIR
JULY 7 PUBLICATION OF EDITORIAL ATTACKING PRC FOREIGN
POLICY BY DISTRIBUTING ITS TEXT TO FOREIGN MISSIONS
AND CORRESPONDENTS IN PEKING. LATEST MOVE CAPS
GRADUAL COOLING OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO
COUNTRIES, AND REPRESENTS A DIRECT CHALLENGE TO
THE NEW PRC LEADERSHIP. END SUMMARY

2. THE ALBANIAN EMBASSY IN PEKING IN AN UNPRECEDENTED
DIRECT AFFRONT TO THE CHINESE ON JULY 12 DISTRIBUTED
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TO FOREIGN JOURNALISTS AND MANY DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS
THE 25 PAGE TEXT OF THE JULY 7 ANTI-PRC EDITORIAL
IN ZERI I POPULLIT.

3. WIRE SERVICES HAVE SUMMARIZED EDITORIAL, AND WE
ASSUME DEPARTMENT HAS TEXT. IN BRIEF, ALBANIANS
BLASTED UNNAMED "OPPORTUNISTS" FOR THEIR THEORY

OF THE "THREE WORLDS" AND FOR TREATING DEVELOPING AND NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES AS A POSITIVE FORCE IN OPPOSING IMPERIALISM, WITHOUT DRAWING CLASS DISTINCTIONS AMONG THESE COUNTRIES. EDITORIAL ALSO DENOUNCED CHINESE FOR DE FACTO COOPERATION WITH THE WEST IN OPPOSING SOVIET UNION, AND BRANDED ALL THESE FALLACIES AS "ANTI-MARXIST" AND "ANTI-LENINIST".

4. ALTHOUGH ALBANIAN UNHAPPINESS WITH THE PRC'S ONE-SIDEDLY ANTI-SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY GOES BACK SEVERAL YEARS, RECENT DEVELOPMENTS MAY HAVE BROUGHT MATTERS TO A HEAD. PEKING HAS APPARENTLY EMBARKED ON A CAMPAIGN TO URGE FRATERNAL PARTIES TO ENDORSE ITS "THREE WORLDS" CONCEPT, AS EVIDENCED BY EXPLICIT ENDORSEMENTS FROM U.S. AND GREEK ORGANIZATIONS CITED RECENTLY IN NCNA AND LESS EXPLICIT STATEMENTS FROM SEVERAL OTHER PARTIES. MORE IMPORTANTLY, THE CHINESE HAVE RECENTLY INTENSIFIED THEIR CONTACTS WITH YUGOSLAVIA. PRC SENT BOTH A HIGH RANKING MILITARY DELEGATION AND A NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS DELEGATION (HEADED BY A POLITBURO ALTERNATE MEMBER) TO BELGRADE IN PAST TWO MONTHS AND WILL RECEIVE PRESIDENT TITO NEXT MONTH.

5. STILL ANOTHER FACTOR MAY BE PEKING'S CALL LAST SPRING FOR A DE FACTO ALLIANCE BETWEEN AFRICA AND
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WESTERN EUROPE TO OPPOSE SOVIET PENETRATION. THE ALBANIAN EDITORIAL EXPLICITLY DENOUNCED TREATING THE "SECOND WORLD" AS A POTENTIAL ALLY AGAINST IMPERIALISM.

6. ALL THESE DEVELOPMENTS, COMING ON TOP OF THE DEATH OF CHAIRMAN MAO AND THE PURGE OF THE "GANG OF FOUR" ALBANOPHILES, MAY HAVE CONVINCED THE TIRANA LEADERSHIP THAT AN OPEN BREAK WAS UNAVOIDABLE. THE FRENCH EMBASSY IN PEKING INFORMED US THE WEEK BEFORE THE EDITORIAL'S RELEASE THAT THEIR EMBASSY IN TIRANA HAD REPORTED THAT ALBANIAN PRESS HAD PUBLISHED ONLY BAREST REFERENCES TO CHINA DURING PAST SIX MONTHS. A SOVIET EMBASSY SOURCE ALSO REPORTS THAT ALBANIAN EMBASSY PERSONNEL HERE HAVE BEGUN ASKING QUESTIONS IN PEKING DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY, A SIGN THAT THEY HAVE LOST THEIR ONCE PRIVILEGED ACCESS TO THE CHINESE.

7. THE PRC HAS YET TO REACT PUBLICLY TO THE EDITORIAL. CHINESE ATTENDANCE AT A JULY 10 RECEPTION HOSTED BY THE ALBANIAN MILITARY ATTACHE TO COMMEMORATE THE FOUNDING OF THE ALBANIAN ARMY, FOR EXAMPLE, WAS AT EXACTLY THE SAME LEVEL AS IN PAST YEARS. NCNA THIS YEAR,

HOWEVER, DID NOT QUOTE FROM THE TOASTS, PERHAPS
INDICATING THAT SOME OF WHAT WAS SAID WAS UNPRINTABLE.
NOR DID NCNA FOLLOW ITS PREVIOUS PRACTICE OF NOTING
THE ANNIVERSARY WITH AN ARTICLE ON SINO-ALBANIAN
FRIENDSHIP.

8. IT IS PRESUMABLY IN CHINESE INTEREST TO PLAY DOWN
AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE THIS DIVISION IN THE INTERNATIONAL
REVOLUTIONARY RANKS, WHICH MAY ALSO BE REFLECTED
INTERNALLY IN THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY. NEVERTHELESS,
WE FIND IT DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAT PEKING WILL
CONTINUE TO IGNORE THE PROVOCATION REPRESENTED BY
DISTRIBUTION OF THIS EDITORIAL RIGHT UNDER THEIR
NOSES.
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